General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 96 (t)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/64/391)*]

64/44. Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997, 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998, 54/54 L of 1 December 1999, 55/33 I of 20 November 2000, 56/24 G of 29 November 2001, 57/73 of 22 November 2002, 58/49 of 8 December 2003, 59/85 of 3 December 2004, 60/58 of 8 December 2005, 61/69 of 6 December 2006, 62/35 of 5 December 2007 and 63/65 of 2 December 2008,

Recalling also the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned",[1]

Determined to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Determined also to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[2]

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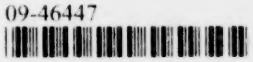
[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42), annex I.

[2] Resolution S-10/2.



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Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,[3] Rarotonga,[4] Bangkok[5] and Pelindaba[6] establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,[7] to, inter alia, achieve a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

Noting the adoption of the Declaration of the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005,[8] where nuclear-weapon-free-zone States met for the purpose of strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone regime and contributing to the disarmament and the non-proliferation processes, and in particular to analyse ways of cooperating that could contribute to achieving the universal goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Underlining the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties, and in that regard, notes with satisfaction the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia, held in Ulaanbaatar on 27 and 28 April 2009,

Reaffirming the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[9]

1. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty[7] and the treaties of Tlatelolco,[3] Rarotonga,[4] Bangkok[5] and Pelindaba[6] are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas are now in force;

3. *Welcomes* the ratification by all original parties of the Treaty of Rarotonga, and calls upon eligible States to adhere to the Treaty and the protocols thereto;

4. *Also welcomes* the entry into force, on 15 July 2009, of the Treaty of Pelindaba, which establishes a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet adhered to them;

6. *Urges* all relevant States to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues with a view to the full implementation of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which entered into force on 21 March 2009;

7. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[4] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

[6] A/50/426, annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

[8] A/60/121, annex III.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

those reflected in its resolutions on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia;

8. *Affirms its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the process of nuclear disarmament and to work for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made on increased collaboration within and between zones at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005, at which States reaffirmed their need to cooperate in order to achieve their common objectives, and looks forward to the second Conference planned for 2010, which aims to further develop this collaboration;

10. *Congratulates* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, as well as Mongolia, for their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and calls upon them to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

11. *Encourages* the competent authorities of the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to those treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of the goals;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

55th plenary meeting
2 December 2009